

Add new claims 53-57 as follows:

- 548
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B3
- 53. The isotropic alignment layer of claim 1 wherein the randomly oriented liquid crystals in the cured film are azimuthally oriented by rubbing the film.~
 - 54. The isotropic alignment layer of claim 1 wherein the reactive mesogen is a UV curable monoacrylate or diacrylate monomer or oligomer.~
 - 55. The isotropic alignment layer of claim 1 wherein the cured polymer film is formed from epoxy and reactive mesogen dissolved in a solvent which does not damage the alignment layer of the liquid crystal device upon which it is coated.~
 - 56. The isotropic alignment layer of claim 54 wherein the solvent is a ketone.~
 - 57. The isotropic alignment layer of claim 54 wherein the solvent is chosen from the group consisting of cyclohexanone, methylethylketone, acetone, cyclopentanone, toluene and chlorobenzene.~

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of November 6, 2002, the shortened period for response thereto expiring February 6, 2003. Claims examined were Claims 1-6 as amended September 25, 2002, claims 7-52 having been withdrawn as non-elected claims in response to a restriction requirement. New claims 53 and 54, dependent on claim 1, directed to a method of orienting the film, as set forth on page 9, lines 9-31, and specifically identified reactive mesogens, as set forth on page 8, lines 3-5 and page 9, lines 3-4, have been added. New claims 55-57 have been added to the solvents used. The first full paragraph on page 8 has been amended to correct an inadvertent error in the list of suitable solvents. In listing said solvents, due to typographical error, toluene and chlorobenzene were identified as ketones. One skilled in the art will recognize that it was clearly the intention to identify the solvents as certain ketones as well as toluene and chlorobenzene.

The claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Shiota et al, US 5,773,178 in that the '178 reference discloses an alignment layer for a liquid crystal device comprising an epoxy and a reactive mesogen mixed with the epoxy, the reactive mesogen comprising aligned liquid crystal molecules, the alignment layer being polyamide free, the epoxy is UV curable and may include a photo initiator and thermal inhibitors.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the cited reference. In particular, applicants' invention is an isotropic alignment film with a